

Serial No. 10/648,292

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) A steering wheel ~~comprising~~ comprising:  
a steering wheel body ~~and a switch operation portion; the steering wheel body~~  
~~comprises~~ that comprises a steering wheel core including a ring core of a ring portion, a boss core  
of a boss portion, and a plurality of spoke cores of spokes, wherein the ring portion ~~being held~~  
~~is held during steering~~, the boss portion ~~being located~~ is located in the center of the ring portion,  
and the spokes connecting ~~connect~~ the ring portion and the boss portion;  
a pad located above the boss portion, wherein the pad is joined to the steering wheel core;  
and  
a switch operation portion; wherein the switch operation portion is separated from the  
pad and is arranged outward from the pad toward the ring, wherein:  
upon self-alignment of the steering wheel, a ring plane of the steering wheel body  
~~has the ring plane thereof is~~ displaced toward the vertical plane ~~by means of~~ due to plastic  
deformation of the steering wheel core;  
the switch operation portion is disposed in at least one of two spokes located in  
the front side, the two front spokes neighboring a front space inside the ring portion and  
being arranged generally symmetrically relative to the boss portion; and  
the cores of the front spokes comprise ~~deformable~~ deforming portions,  
respectively, at positions generally symmetric relative to the boss portion and toward the  
boss portion relative to the switch operation portion, whereby the front spoke cores are  
~~twist-deformable~~ twist-deform upon self-alignment.

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2. (Currently amended) The steering wheel according to Claim 1, wherein the deforming portions are first deforming portions, and wherein each of the front spoke cores further comprises, at a position toward the ring portion relative to ~~the deformable portions~~ corresponding one of the first deforming portions, a second ~~deformable~~ deforming portion which ~~is twist deformable~~ twist deforms upon self-alignment.

3. (Currently amended) The steering wheel according to Claim 1, wherein the switch operation portion is screw-fixed to the front spoke core at only one position.

4. (Currently amended) The steering wheel according to Claim 1, ~~further comprising a pad above the boss portion, wherein:~~

the pad is joined to a core of a rear spoke and held thereat, the rear spoke being located rearward of the front spokes; and

the rear spoke core comprises a plastically ~~deformable~~ deforming portion at a position forward of the joint with the pad, wherein the plastically deforming ~~deformable~~ portion being deforms ~~plastically deformable~~ upon self-alignment.

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